

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A call processing method for determining that a call has been call forwarded comprising:

A sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum allowed value;

receiving a response message in response to the initial address message; and

analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.

2. (Original) The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising initiating fraud prevention activity.

3. (Original) The call processing method of claim 2 wherein the fraud prevention activity includes terminating the call.

4. (Original) The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a database to obtain information indicative of whether the call represents unauthorized use of a communications network.

5. (Original) The call processing method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the first initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.

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6. (Currently amended) ~~The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising~~ A call processing method for determining that a call has been call forwarded comprising:

sending a first initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum allowed value;

receiving a response message in response to the initial address message;

analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded; and

sending ~~another~~ a second initial address message having ~~another~~ a redirection counter set to a second predetermined value, wherein the sending of the second message is performed if it is undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

7. (Currently amended) The call processing method of claim 6, wherein the second predetermined value is zero.

8. (Original) A method of processing a call, comprising:

determining whether the call is a forwarded call;

responsive to a determination that the call is a forwarded call, preventing the call from being completed; and

initiating fraud prevention activity.

9. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein the initiating fraud prevention activity comprises:

determining whether a dialed telephone number is subject to a call restriction;

determining a telephone station to which the call will be connected;

testing a second telephone number associated with the telephone station; and

terminating the call if the second telephone number is subject to the call restriction.

10. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein ~~said step of the~~ the determining whether a call has been forwarded does not utilize a telecommunications switch through which the forwarded call passes.

11. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein the determining whether a call is a forwarded call comprises:

sending [[an]] a first initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum allowed value;

receiving a response message in response to the initial address message; and

analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.

12. (Currently amended) The call processing method of claim 11, further comprising sending ~~another~~ a second initial address message having ~~another~~ a redirection counter set to a second predetermined value if it is undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

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13. (Currently amended) The call processing method of claim 12, wherein the second predetermined value is zero.

14. (Currently amended) A method of processing a call, comprising:

determining whether a call is forwarded call; and

responsive to a determination that the call is a forwarded call, initiating fraud prevention activity in connection with processing the call,

wherein initiating fraud prevention activity comprises accessing a database to obtain information indicative of whether the forwarded call is to a restricted number. ~~call represents unauthorized use of a communications network.~~

15. (Original) The method of processing a call of claim 14, wherein determining whether a call is a forwarded call includes determining whether the call will be completed to a dialed number.

16. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 14, wherein determining whether a call is a forwarded call comprises:

sending ~~[[an]]~~ a first initial address message having a redirection counter set to a first predetermined value;

receiving a response message in response to the first initial address message indicating whether the redirection counter was incremented; and

analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.

17. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 16, wherein the first initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.

18. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 16, further comprising sending ~~another~~ a second initial address message having ~~another~~ a redirection counter set to ~~another~~ a second predetermined value if it is undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

19. (Currently amended) The method of processing a call of claim 18, wherein the ~~another~~ second predetermined value is zero.

20. (Original) A call processing method for terminating a forwarded call, comprising:

sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum allowed value;

receiving a response message in response to the initial address message;

analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded; and

terminating the call in response to a determination that the call has been forwarded.

21. (Original) The call processing method of claim 20, wherein the initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.

22. (Original) The call processing method of claim 20, wherein the initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.

23. (Original) The call processing method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined value is zero.

24. (Original) A method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting, comprising:

generating an initial address message based on a first telephone number associated with a call from a first telephone station, the initial address message having a redirection counter set to a predetermined value;

attempting to increment a value of the redirection counter when a switch attempts to forward the call to a second telephone number associated with a respective telephone station, wherein the second telephone number is not a dialed telephone number;

A preventing the call from being connected to the second telephone station if the attempt to increment the value of the redirection counter fails; and

connecting the call to the second telephone station if the attempt to increment the value of the redirection counter is successful.

25. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further comprising generating a release message indicating that the call could not be set up if the call is prevented from being connected to the second telephone station.

26. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further comprising initiating fraud prevention activity if the attempt to increment the value of the redirection counter fails.

27. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further comprising setting the value of the redirection counter to a maximum allowed value when the initial address message is generated.

28. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, wherein the initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.

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29. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 25, further comprising generating another initial address message associated with the call if the release message is generated.

30. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 25, further comprising generating another initial address message associated with the call and having a redirection counter set to another predetermined value, if the release message is generated.

31. (Original) The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 30, wherein the another predetermined value is zero.

32. (New) The call processing method of claim 6, further comprising initiating fraud prevention activity.

33. (New) The call processing method of claim 32 wherein the fraud prevention activity includes terminating the call.

A 34. (New) The call processing method of claim 6, further comprising accessing a database to obtain information indicative of whether the call represents unauthorized use of a communications network.

35. (New) The call processing method of claim 6, wherein the first initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address Message.
